>>>>>>>>>><<<<<<<<<<

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER
****
VOLUME 6 ** NUMBER 11
******
NOVEMBER 1988

EDITED BY: DICK WAGNER
CHAIRMAN: MICHAEL CARVER
V/CHAIRMAN: BILL DUNLOP
SECRETARY: JACK ARMSTRONG
TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
LIBRARIAN: GAYLEN BENCH

MEETING

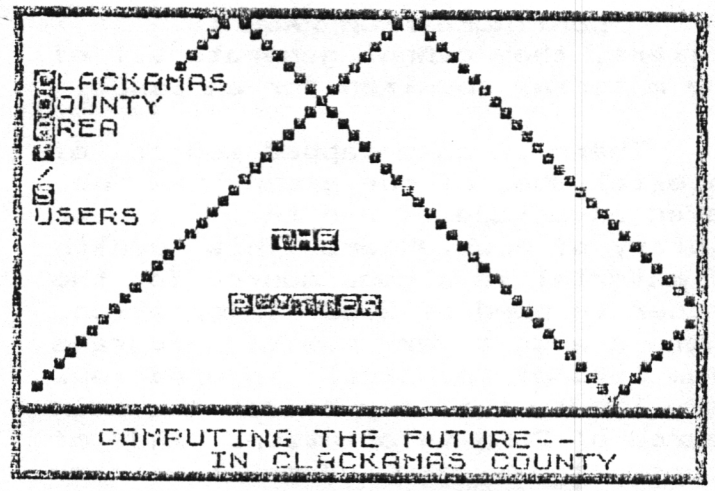
The NOVEMBER meeting will be:

on: FRI., NOVEMBER 11, 1988

meeting room open at: 7:30 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE

MEETINGS----------PAGE 1
EDITORIAL----------PAGE 1
CONTINUED-----PAGE 2
OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY------PAGE 2
CONTINUED-----PAGE 3
BITS & BYTES----------PAGE 3
CONTINUED-----PAGE 4
LARKEN LINES----------PAGE 4
VU-CALC REVISITED----------PAGE 5
CONTINUED-----PAGE 6
ELECTION TIME----------PAGE 6
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK-------PAGE 7
OLIGER SAFE V DISK
OPERATING SYSTEM--------PAGE 7
ELECTION'S SOON----------PAGE 8
SUPRISE----------PAGE 8
NOTICE----------PAGE 8
ADS/MEMBERSHIP----------PAGE 8



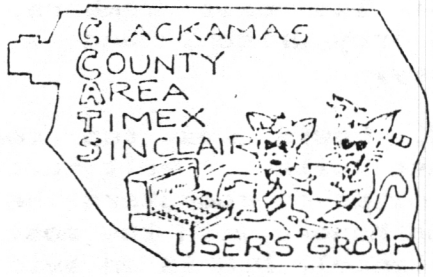
EDITORIAL

Dick Wagner

The reported demise of SincWare News doesn't seem to make sense when the October issues of TIME DESIGNS Magazine and UP DATE Magazine show substantial improvement in content and format. There is certainly an advanced programming effort being put forth by contributors as well as more advanced articles being offered by writers and Editors. As an example, UP DATE Magazine is 80 pages for this issue so there does not seem to be a shortage of contributors.

The QL and Z88 computers are becoming more popular so we can expect to see more space devoted to these machines as writers take up the challenge. Certainly there is still a lot of life left in the 2068 but some of the past writers are devoting more time and effort on the QL. The 2068 devotee is just going to have to expect a decrease in articles and programs. Editors can only print material submitted by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
writers, they cannot generate all of the material required for an issue.

There is an untapped source of material most of our group has not taken advantage of and that is our library of newsletters. This wealth of material is a good source for the reader in need of 2068 information. There are some very useful programs plus lots of technical information. Very likely this may become the main source of 2068 information. And of course there are other libraries that can be taped by joining other user groups, as well as purchasing public domain programs at small cost.

A very good program source has been UP DATE Magazine with reprints of programs available on cassette, disk, and now QL programs on wafer.

We are indeed blessed with such a storehouse of information.

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER MEETING

Dick Wagner

Due to the absence of Secretary Jack Armstrong the following is a summary of the business meeting.

The October meeting was presided over by President Mike Carver. Secretary Jack Armstrong reported by telephone during the meeting that he would be absent due to car trouble.

Attendance was about average, starting with 11 people. Several showed up later. Mike requested that we give our names, any office held, and types of equipment owned. This was deemed desirable because of the return of two past members, Bill Rich and Troy Wilson, and a guest Mike Raney.

D.S. Lewis was top computer enthusiast with a multitude of various makes of computers (he also takes top honors with the most years of experience). D.S is an avid user of machine code language.

Mike Raney presented a problem in using his TS 1000 as a control center. This led to some discussion of "why machine code" when BASIC seemed to meet most needs. The answers ranged from learning what made our computers tick to being able to produce programming results not available in BASIC. Mike Raney obtained further information from several members after the meeting closed.

Duane Hewitt, with some assistance from Bill Rich, had set up a 2-meter radio link thru a Packet device and his 2068 computer. Duane gave some description of what he had and the method of operation. A demo was reserved for after the meeting.

Treasurer Rod Gowen gave a financial report of the 1988 computer fair. The cost to put on the 2 day event was about $1360 (some expenses were gratis and not charged for). The income was about $800. It is expected that some of the expense will be recovered by future sales of video and audio tapes not yet available. There were actually 131 tickets sold, far short of anticipated attendance. It is discouraging that the number of people showing an interest to attend but didn't would have just about produced a break-even show.

Members again addressed the problem of attracting new members. President Mike thought it was high time to get quantities of meeting notices out to several book stores who have meeting bulletin boards. Finances might curtail some of this activity for the present.

D.S. described the swap meet to be set up the following day (Saturday) at Tigard by the CP/M user group. A good opportunity for hardware acquisition and unloading.

Dick Wagner, THE PLOTTER Editor, asked about the delivery date of the October issue as it was later than usual. The policy is to get it out in plenty of time for members to reserve the meeting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

night. Two weeks seems to be suitable. He also requested input about the appearance of the October issue. Some columns had larger headings than usual which made them stand out better. Future issues will strive to do this by useing better font programs. One solution is to use a font maker or something like a label maker to make larger print by screen dump and then paste up.

President Mike Carver requested volunteers for special projects and interesting displays to speak up for the November and December meetings. Ed Fry is to set up a TS 1000 control system similar to his Fair demo but with later enhancements. Dick Wagner will do another type of TS 1000 demo for December in which the computer will be used for instrumentation purposes (measuring capacitance, resistance, and audio frequency).

Rod Gowen explained his reason for the SMUG article in the October issue of THE PLOTTER. He was particularly concerned about failure (of the current "officer") to launch a nation wide survey of needs of such an organization, particularly when TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE offered to print such a questionaire at no cost to SMUG. He also questioned the usefulness of less than a monthly newsletter because of the time element in getting out news of interest to members.

The meeting was adjourned for the repeat of Dick Wagner's talk on large printer graphics given at the Fair. Ed Fry provided a video camera so the talk could be added to the seminar tapes (the audio failed for this talk at the Fair). Next we watched a demo of the Packet radio, Duane having contacted a radio repeater station for this purpose. This was followed with some members going to Sheri's to make up a table for refreshements.

We missed you, Jack. Moral--don't make such rash promises in writing.

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, 10 AM- 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

A+ COMPUTER RESPONSE-

reportedly has sold the last of their remaining QL stock to Sharps, Inc., of Virginia, for an undisclosed amount. Mark Stueber, owner of Sharps, has set the price for a complete QL package at $149.95 plus shipping. RMG, the only other dealer in North America known to have any stock of QLs left, has set the same price for the time being.

TIMELINEZ NEWSLETTER-

of the San Francisco area, is now being published by Andy Hradesky of American Micro Connection, a San Jose QL dealer. We know what a job a newsletter is, so we wish him well!

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-

IS ALIVE AND WELL! Just because an issue is a week or two late, there is no reason to call out the bugler to sound taps! Tim Woods, the editor and publisher of TDM, works long and hard to put together the kind of magazine that we all want to have around for a long time to come. Let's not start bombarding him with complaints because of lateness. I have yet to see an issue that was not worth waiting for!

RMG ENTERPRISES-

says that by the time you are reading this newsletter, the 1988 Mini-Fair video/audio tapes should be ready to ship. Barring unforseen

Continued on page 4

problems, it will be going out about the first of November as promised. I also want to say that the audio on the tapes this year is 200% better than that on the 1987 tapes.

LARKEN ELECTONICS-

is keeping true to form: LATE, as usual! We hate to say it, BUT, other than Aerco, we know of no producer that is slower in delivering product than Larken! Let's hope that Larry can speed up his act before too many people get tired of waiting. After all, his may be the BEST DOS around, but it sure is not the ONLY one!

SNUG-

information published in the last issue of The Plotter drew VERY LITTLE comment! I was hoping that there would be some kind of feedback on the article, letter or comments about the goings-on with this venture. I do not want to sound like a "doomsayer", but I am afraid that if we get no better response that what I have seen to date, we can "kiss this idea goodbye", as they say. I sure hope that the folks in Florida are getting more response than our piece got. Maybe it is too soon to look for a response to our writings? We'll see. We will talk more on the subject next month.

CCAT/2 LIBRARY-

DICK WAGNER, our editor, has taken on the job, temporarily, we hope, of organizing the Library a bit. It has been some time since this has been done so it will take a bit of work. His first task is to convert the Profile 2068 files from Aerco disk to Larken and Oliger formats. Then he will be putting data into the files. Thanks, Dick, and good luck!

RMG BBS-

will, in all likelyhood, be taken down as of 12/31/88. The reasons are many, but mainly it is because of lack of use and cost of oper- ationn both in time and money. It was originally set up as an ordering service for RMG Enterprises. RMG gave CCAT/S members and others a base to use, but, alas, only a VERY few have taken advantage of it. As an ordering service, it has not taken enough orders to pay the monthly phone line charge. If things change, we will keep you informed.

SEE YOU NEXT TIME!---

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

Is everyone ready for W I N T E R ? I hope so, because it is on its way! One thing that this will mean is more indoor time. More time to work on our computers.

Not much news on the Larken scene. Only the bit of news that Larry has finished a mini Terminal/BBS program for use with the system. RMG will be selling it at $19.95 plus shipping. He (Larry) also said that the Sequential Filing Disk is almost complete and that he is working on the documentation for it. We hope to see it real soon.

The other piece of news that is Larken related is the fact that the Larken version of Lemke's Pixel Print Pro is currently undergoing beta-testing and should be finished very soon. RMG will be selling it as well as Lemke. Watch for more on this later.

As the newsletter carried 2 program bits on Larken last month, I have decided to put off running another one until our December issue.

Next month I will be re-printing another of George Chambers' public domain utilities.

Hope you will be here!

VU-CALC REVISITED

Dick Wagner

Not much has been said of VU-CALC for a few years. After all, what can you do with a spread sheet that uses print-out on a 2040 printer? And who needs 50 column by 50 lines of data? I found a good use for it for keeping a better record of my retirement income.

Jack Dohany's revision of VU-CALC got me started on this income record project as it now fits my needs of a suitable print-out at any time. And VU-CALC has the calculating ability for running sums and totals. He has added several nice features -full size printer (standard and wide bed), save to cassette/A&J Microdrive/disk (Oliger, Larken, Aerco). The major changes in the actual operating system provide for QUIT, SAVE, PRINT, and LOAD by menu.

In the Q-mode I can QUIT, BACKUP (copy VU-CALC), ERASE (file in memory), & RESUME. THE P-mode is very interesting as I can define the range of rows/column to print. It will print a single row (as many as 19 columns wide) and a single column (limit of 50 lines plus top titles plus top and bottom column numbers and markers). The maximum for a 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of paper is 19 columns in compressed print mode.

In S-mode the data file is saved according to your storage system. I find that a press of a S key brings up the disk catalog (Oliger) so I can use a prior name to overwrite or a new name, all without BREAKing. All files are of the same length (VU-CALC system) and the top titles and comment lines are not saved.

In L-mode the program asks for the name of the data file to load. If it is necessary to change disk drive numbers it can be done in the Q-mode and then recover with RESUME.

Printer size is set by a program line change as mostly printers are either about 137 or 272 compressed columns. a simple LET pc=137, etc does it. The wide bed with 272 columns figures at about 38 cell columns.

All very nice, but can the ordinary computer user have use for it? For some time I have been looking for a data base program that permits a convenient way to display my retirement monthly income (source and amounts), monthly totals of each, monthly total, totals to date, and the same for a few investments, Social Security, savings accounts, pension, and any other that must be reported to IRS. The annual totals are easy to come by but when quarterly estimated income must be projected, with penalties for being too low, and with variables with every investment, it becomes increasingly painful to work out such projections.

VU-CALC files can be revised at will and calculations run at any time. Now I can work with hard copies for record keeping, and making any necessary notes. I found that with some abbreviating I can get along with 3 cells (21 characters), have some columns for such as costs, dates, value, etc. With organization I can get it all in 19 cells, including a totals column, for 12 months of data. The bottom 2 lines provide a monthly income from all investments and a total to date of all investments.

Thus the above provides a running income from certain investments. There are 31 columns left so allowing for a few for separation, a second record is set up for non-investment income. This is arranged in a similar manner as the first. This one also has a line for the total arrived at with the first spread sheet. Thus a monthly income can be calculated and displayed at any time.

Due to the ability to select lines/columns to be printed, I print out the monthly income sheet first (the section beyond column 19) as it is the sumation, and then the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Continued from page 5

investment record sheet is printed last. In my case there is room for both.

The frosting on the cake is the ability to add as many title/reference lines as one desires to the top of each chart. However, these are not a part of data that is saved so I keep these to a minimum and put in abbreviated notes within the 4-cells (28 characters) permitted. Such text could extend across the sheet if necessary. I think the 4-cell limit is due to the space at the bottom of the screen used for input of data for text.

Jack's modified VU-CALC includes a printer driver that supports only LPRINT. However it is very nice as it can be used for printer graphics as it supports my Panasonic printer in graphic mode for all numbers 0 thru 255 without a misstep.

You must be a owner of the 2068 VU-CALC to get this up-date. Jack's documentation only covers his changes so don't expect to learn how to use VU-CALC from him. The price is $10.00 plus a $5.00 P&H charge for a complete order. So write to Jack Dahony, 390 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA, 94061 for his FAIRWARE catalog and price list for other programs of interest that can be lumped into one order. His prices are very reasonable. He programs for various storage systems, cassette, Larken DOS, A&J wafer drive, Oliger DOS (version 2.5 that supports the much wanted ERASE file, RESTORE for changing disk names, and shows the file starting address besides the current byte size in the directory), and Aerco DOS. Add for drives ranging from 3.5" SSDD, DSDD, & DSQD, thru 5 1/4" SSDD, DSDD, & DSQD, plus most of the printer interfaces. I doubt that there is another programmer or soft ware supplier who provides such a wide range of equipment support for individual programs.

ELECTION TIME

Dick Wagner

Our "by laws" are mute on how elections shall be held so we mainly follow precedence.

Nominations for president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer are to be made at the November meeting. Absent members can make a nomination thru the mail prior to the November 11 meeting so names can be seconded. Just write to our mailing address.

Voting takes place at the December meeting (tentative December 9). Ballots will be included with the December issue of THE PLOTTER. Mail-in ballots to our mailing address must be received by December 15. Several times the mail-in ballots have swung the election to the winner.

As an aid to all members and hopefully a higher voting count, we have included a list of all paid up members. A few are not available because of meeting date conflicts, away for months (those Arizona travellers), or do not live within our meeting area. These are marked with an "*". If a reader has been so identified in error please let THE EDITOR know at the meeting.

Jack Armstrong
*Jim Balazic
Gaylen Bench
Cliff Carpenter
Michael Carver
*Robert M. Curnutt
*Bill Dunlop
Bob Evans
Ed Fry
*R.E. Gerow
Rod Gowen
*Duane Hewitt
Matt Kernal
D.S. Lewis
Ken Lutes
Donald Malm
Tom Moll
Merlin Raymond
Betty Schaffler
Dick Wagner
Tim Woods
*Syd Wyncoop

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue carries the beginning of a series on disk drive system commands. It is not intended to be a comparison study but rather a summary of commands used by OLIGER, LARKEN and AERCO. The reader should be able to make comparisons of points of interest from this information.

There is increased interest in disk drive systems. This series, continued as space permits, seems to be a good way to inform readers about commands. It is not intended to be how to operate the various systems, the manual is for this purpose.

There has been considerable upgrading of OLIGER and LARKEN commands since these systems first appeared. Owners of older systems without revisions will find the current information helpful in deciding to obtain the latest EPROMS.

OLIGER SAFE V 2.5 DISK OPERATING SYSTEM

Dick Wagner

The following summary of commands will be printed in THE PLOTTER newsletter as space permits. The Editor plans a similar summary review of the Larken DOS and also the Aerco DOS.

Commands that use alphabetic characters (A-Z & a-z), lower and upper case are treated equal. There are some commands that use a single such character.

Commands that require a string may use all caps, all lower case, and may mix them. A LOAD command must use exactly the string under which it was SAVEd.

To differentiate from cassette commands SAFE DOS uses a "/" between the type of command and the name. To revise a cassette program to SAFE DOS just add the "/".

File names are a maximum of 10 characters between quotes, not counting the type of file, such as SCREEN$. Disk names are limited to 16 characters and may be as short as a space between quotes. Provision is made for changing disk names after formatting.

The EPROM program is produced to fit the users needs as to number of sides, number of tracks, drive #, head rate and density. These default commands can be changed at will (except density) to format a disk. These commands are in the form of LET/s=n, LET/T=n, LET/d=n and LET/H=n.

The printer driver program directs to either a large printer or 2040 printer. The command is LET/P=0 or LET /p=t. A special adaptation is provided for ASCII character copy on several specific printers.

FORMAT/"name" is used to format a disk as needed. Formatting is possible within a program sequence. CONTINUE will function afterwards. This command erases ALL previous files on the disk. Names longer than 16 characters will be truncated.

SAVE/"name" is same as for cassette. Adding LINE # is also the same. If a duplicate name (exactly) is used then the old file is overwritten but first a 5 second tone sounds to allow an abort if desired. However if the new file is too long to fit within the number of cylinders an ERROR message is displayed, leaving the old file intact. Alter the new name to be different from the old with a cap, lower case, etc if the name is to be retained.

LOAD/"name" is same as for cassette.

SAVE/0 saves a menu type program in cylinder 0. Length is limited to 1 1/2 K. The remainder of this cylinder is devoted to disk operation requirements. LOAD will display the menu. One such program uses the cursor for file choice and ENTER loads that file into the computer.

CONTINUED IN FUTURE ISSUE

ELECTIONS SOON!

In case you have forgotten, the upcoming meeting (Nov), is the month in which you can nominate those you would like to see at the head of our group for the upcoming year. If you miss the meeting and do not take advantage of a mail-in nomination, you will not have any reason to complain if the party of your choice is not on the ticket. COME PREPARED TO MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS! The actual elections, as usual, will be held at the December meeting, with mail-in ballots due in by 12/15/88. We will be including a ballot in each of the newsletters going out for December. Watch for it!

VOTE!!

SUPRISE!

We will also be starting a NEW series of what we hope will be a nice attraction for all of our members to attend each meeting. If you are not present, you will hear about WHAT the SUPRISE is in the next issue of The Plotter.

BE THERE!

-NOTICE-

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

FREE SUBSCRIPTION WITH PAID CCAT/S MEMBERSHIP-$20.00/YR

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

AD RATES

****

1 FOUR LINE CLASSIFIED FREE WITH MEMBERSHIP

$ .50 / LINE
$ 5.00 / 1/4 PAGE
$ 8.00 / 1/2 PAGE
$ 15.00 / FULL PAGE

ALL AD COPY MUST BE IN BY THE 10TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO THE MONTH AD IS TO RUN.

CCAT/S
1419 1/2 7TH Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

(place label here)